

**Remarks**

The Office action mailed November 24, 2009, has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1 and 21 have been amended for reasons not related to patentability. New claims 33-39 have been added. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 1 recites "reacting the aldehyde-activated polysaccharide with the hydrazide-activated protein at a pH of from about 6 to about 8." There is nothing indefinite in this phrase since the pH range is clearly specified. Accordingly, the claim language standing alone is not indefinite and thus should not be rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

The solution of the aldehyde-activated polysaccharide has a pH of 7 to 8 and the solution of the hydrazide-activated protein has a pH of 10.0 to 11.0 prior to reacting the aldehyde-activated polysaccharide with the hydrazide-activated protein. When the solution of the hydrazide-activated protein is mixed with the solution of the hydrazide-activated protein the pH of the resulting mixture is 6 to 8.

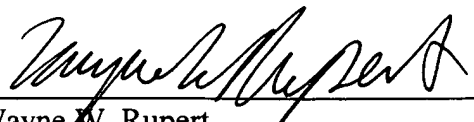
It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any questions regarding this application, examiner Swartz is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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